EPIC COMICS

SIX FROM SIRIUS II 4
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SIX FROM SIRIUS 2™

by DOUG MOENCH and PAUL GULACY

GULACY ©'85

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EPIC COMICS

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While pursued by Valis and his Ghost-Makers through the ruins on Planet-X, Jakosa Lone, leader of the Six from Sirius, inserted a false tooth containing the psyche of team member Zematin-Lar into an "idol" which turned out to be the much coveted gateway into another dimension.

Finding herself within a bizarre, self-contained hive-cyst where the matching gateway is believed to be a "godhead" containing the path to heaven, Zematin-Lar is hailed as a "goddess" by the eternally warring Zavisha and Quatrals. Ages past, with Planet-X threatened by invasion, the dominant race of Zavisha invented the gateway. Fearful, they first sent their slaves, the Quatrals, through the gateway—and later, with invasion imminent, fled through the gateway themselves.

Cornered by Valis and his crew, Jakosa, Grod, and LaMasque escape through the idol/gateway, aided by the sacrifice of Sirian Lt. Demandros —who, before dying, hurls the sadistic Ghost-Maker Xekros through the gateway.

Aware that the idol is a gateway, Valis plans to deliver it for sale to Sirius Hub, the purchase price including the bounty on Jakosa and his team who are trapped within. Enroute to Hub, Starn and Skreed stowaway on the Ghost-Maker ship.

Within the cyst, Jakosa conceives a plan to finally win the Eternal War for the Quatrals–with the help of Xekros' parbeam pistol, and if Zematin can play her goddess role to the hilt.

Meanwhile, Valis confides to his lover, Chelandria, that he and Jakosa have been rivals ever since their training days at the Academy. Valis graduated first only by endangering the life of fellow trainee Demandros in the Final Survival test. In saving Demandros, Jakosa lost the race.

And Chelandria is left with a bitter taste as Hub looms ahead...

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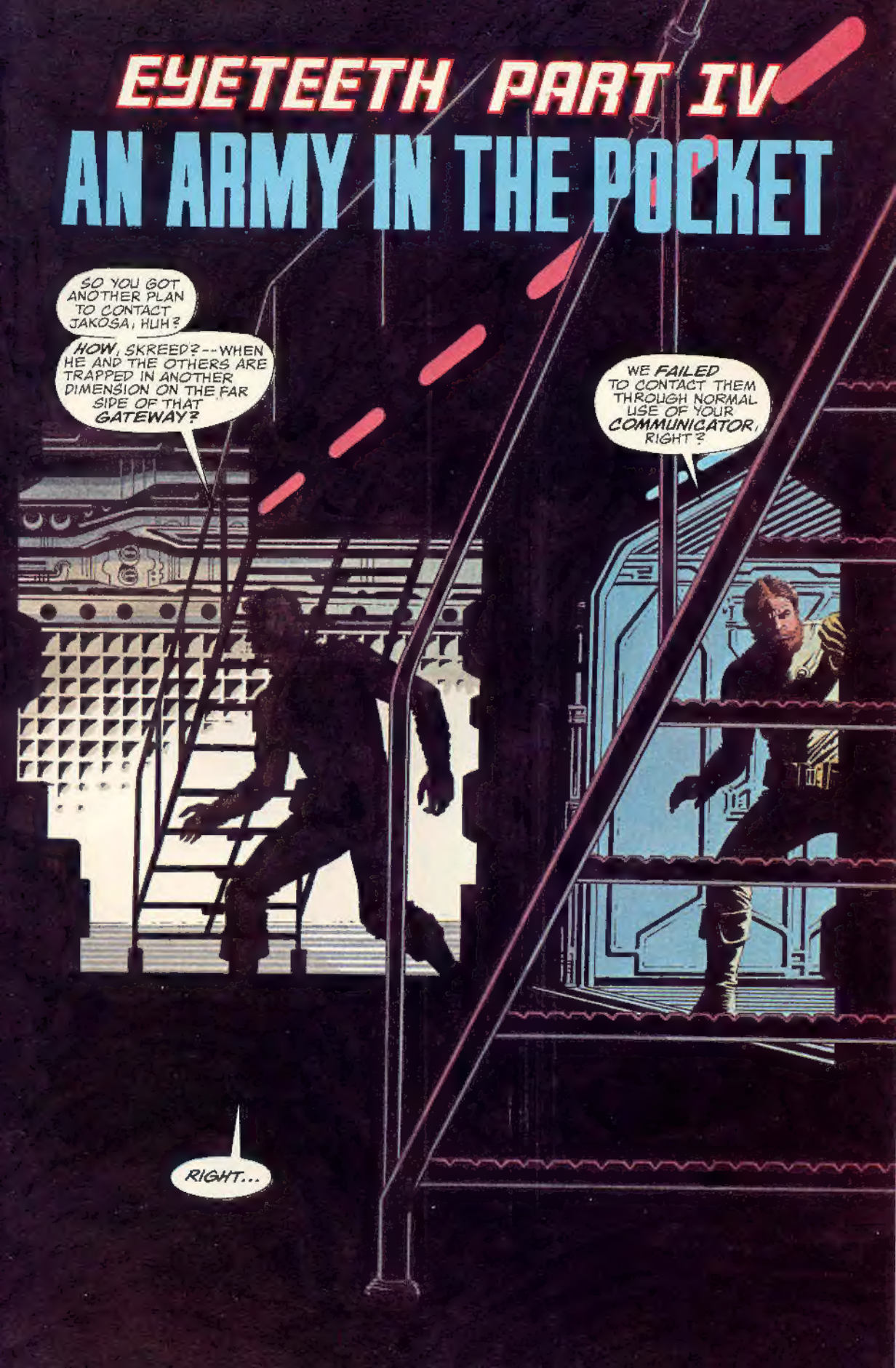
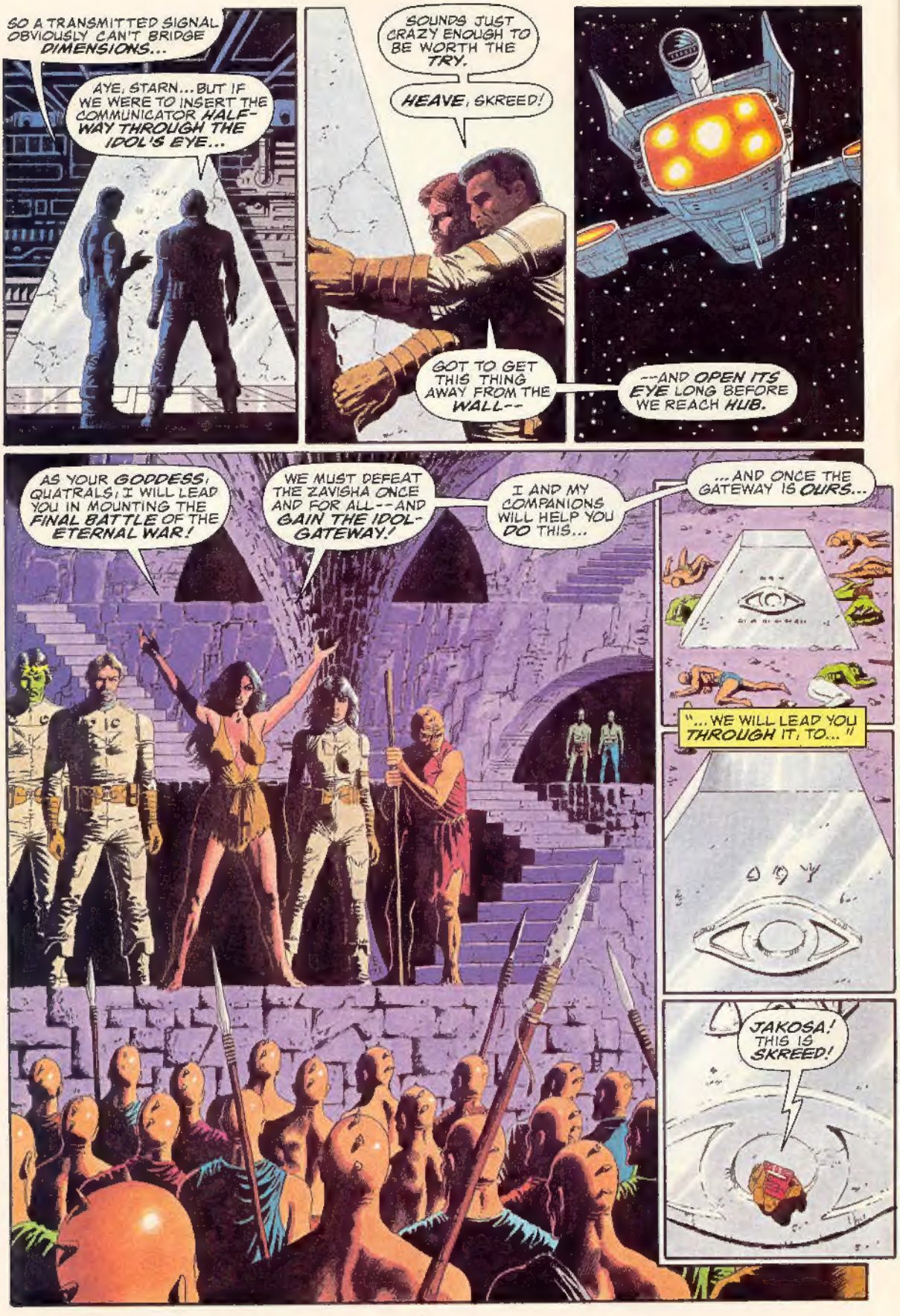
EYETEETH PART IV

AN ARMY IN THE POCKET


SO YOU GOT ANOTHER PLAN TO CONTACT JAKOSA, HUH?
HOW, SKREED? -- WHEN HE AND THE OTHERS ARE TRAPPED IN ANOTHER DIMENSION ON THE FAR SIDE OF THAT GATEWAY?
WE FAILED TO CONTACT THEM THROUGH NORMAL USE OF YOUR COMMUNICATOR, RIGHT?
RIGHT...


SO A TRANSMITTED SIGNAL OBVIOUSLY CAN'T BRIDGE DIMENSIONS...
AYE, STARN... BUT IF WE WERE TO INSERT THE COMMUNICATOR HALF-WAY THROUGH THE IDOL'S EYE...
SOUNDS JUST CRAZY ENOUGH TO BE WORTH THE TRY.
HEAVE, SKREED!
GOT TO GET THIS THING AWAY FROM THE WALL--
--AND OPEN ITS EYE LONG BEFORE WE REACH HUB.
AS YOUR GODDESS, QUATRALS, I WILL LEAD YOU IN MOUNTING THE FINAL BATTLE OF THE ETERNAL WAR!
WE MUST DEFEAT THE ZAVISHA ONCE AND FOR ALL--AND GAIN THE IDOL-GATEWAY!
I AND MY COMPANIONS WILL HELP YOU DO THIS...
...AND ONCE THE GATEWAY IS OURS...
"... WE WILL LEAD YOU THROUGH IT, TO... "
JAKOSA! THIS IS SKREED!

STARN AND I ARE ABOARD *VALIS'* *SHIP*, AND SO ARE *YOU*--

WH-WHAT?

--EN ROUTE FOR *HUB!* DO YOU *READ?*

THE *COMMU-NICATOR?*

ANSWER HIM, ZEMMIE, BUT MAKE IT SEEM LIKE PART OF YOUR *GODDESS* *MUMBO-JUMBO.*

I... UH... *HEAR* ME, QUATRALS...

I HAVE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM MY *FELLOW LORDS* IN THE *PLACE BEYOND!*

WE READ AND HOPE TO *SOON JOIN* YOU WITH A FLOCK OF THE *FAITH-FUL*, FELLOW LORDS, BUT THE WAY IS NOT YET *CLEAR*--THE GODHEAD NOT YET *WON!*

THAT'S *ZEMMIE!*

UH... WELL, JOIN US WHEN YOU *CAN*, AND WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO HAVE *ANGELS* *WAITING.*

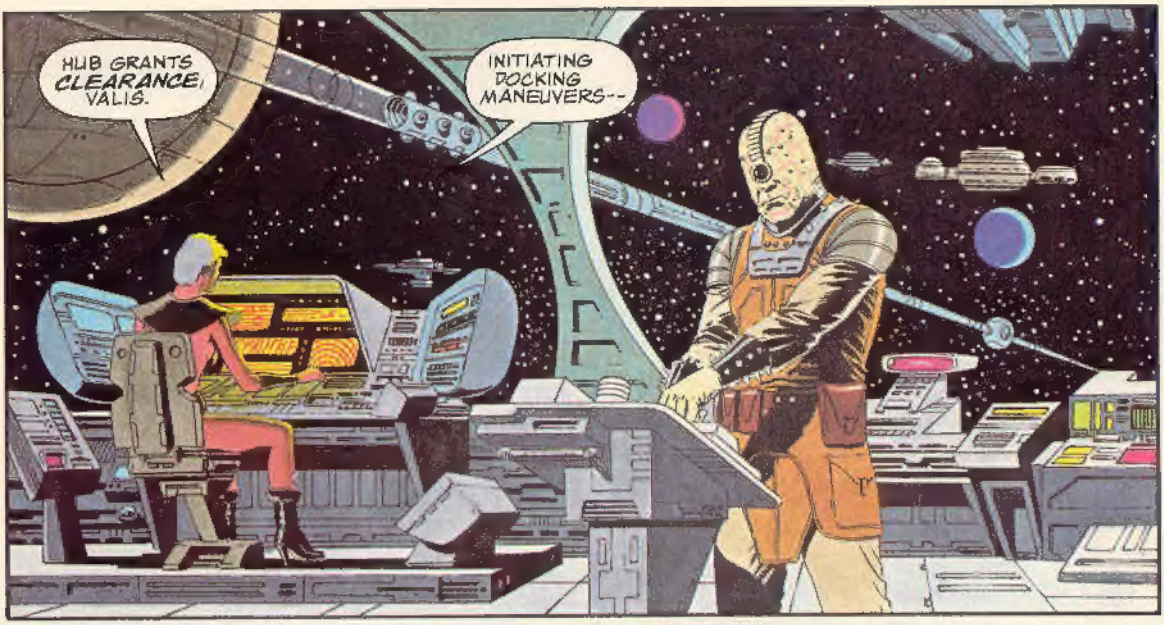
YEAH-- BUT WATCH OUT FOR THE *DEVILS.*

NOW WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT* ALL ABOUT--AND WHAT'S *IN* THAT EYEBALL?

APPARENTLY AN *ARMY* IN ZEMATIN'S *POCKET*... BUT WHERE SHE *GOT* THE POCKET, *DON'T ASK.*

FOR THE *GODHEAD*, QUATRALS!

AND *SALVATION!*


HUB GRANTS CLEARANCE, VALIS.
INITIATING DOCKING MANEUVERS--

--NOW.
WE'RE GOING TO DELIVER THE GATEWAY RIGHT INTO DOCK?
WHAT'S TO PREVENT THEM FROM SEIZING IT AND KILLING US?

IT WILL BE WIRED TO EXPLODE, CHELANDRIA, AND DURING THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF EXCHANGE--

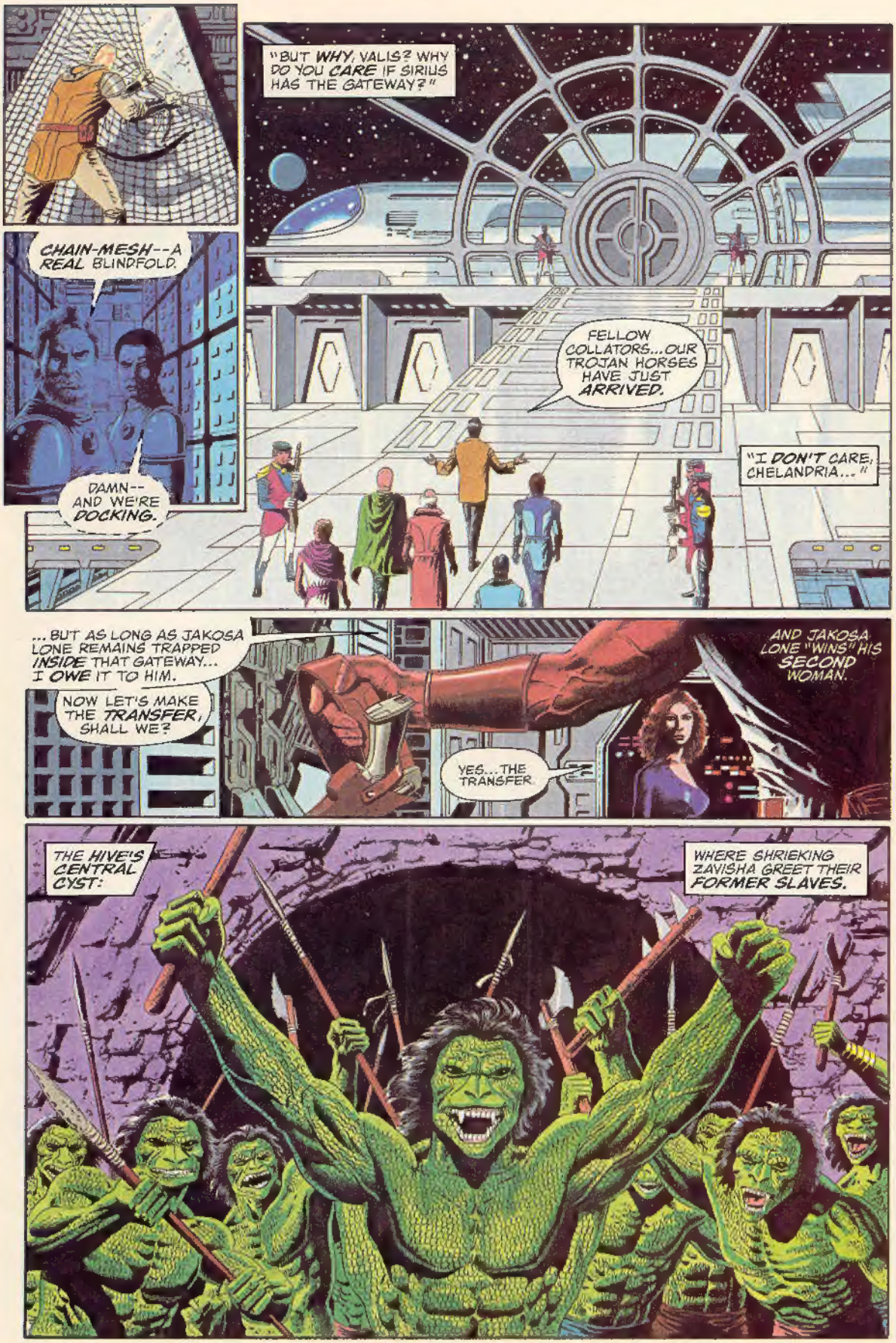
--THE DETONATOR WILL BE IN MY HAND.

WHAT'S MORE, AFTER WE HAVE THEIR CREDIT-CERTIFICATES, WE'LL LEAVE THEM EMPTY-HANDED BY DESTROYING THE GATEWAY AS SOON AS WE HIT CLEAR SPACE.

AND THEY'LL HAVE TO LET US GO, ONCE I WARN THEM THAT DESTRUCTION OF OUR SHIP WILL ALSO DETONATE THE GATEWAY.
BUT SURELY KORASSA WILL DEMAND YOU TURN OVER THE DETONATOR BEFORE WE LEAVE?
WHICH IS WHY THE REAL DETONATOR WILL REMAIN ABOARD SHIP--

--RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF JAKOSA'S WANTED POSTER--

--WHILE I'LL BE HOLDING AND SURRENDERING NOTHING BUT THIS FALSE DETONATOR.
THAT'S INSANE, VALIS!
BLUFF HAS GOTTEN US THIS FAR, CHELANDRIA, AND IT'LL SEE US ALL THE WAY TO FINAL VICTORY.


"BUT WHY, VALIS? WHY DO YOU CARE IF SIRIUS HAS THE GATEWAY?"
CHAIN-MESH--A REAL BLINDFOLD.
DAMN--AND WE'RE DOCKING.
FELLOW COLLATORS...OUR TROJAN HORSES HAVE JUST ARRIVED.
"I DON'T CARE, CHELANDRIA..."
...BUT AS LONG AS JAKOSA LONE REMAINS TRAPPED INSIDE THAT GATEWAY... I OWE IT TO HIM.
NOW LET'S MAKE THE TRANSFER, SHALL WE?
YES...THE TRANSFER.
AND JAKOSA LONE "WINS" HIS SECOND WOMAN.
THE HIVE'S CENTRAL CYST:
WHERE SHRIEKING ZAVISHA GREET THEIR FORMER SLAVES.

IT IS ONLY JUST THAT HERE IN THE ETERNAL WAR, HERE IN A PLACE OF NO POSSESSIONS SAVE LIFE ITSELF--

--OPPRESSED AND OPPRESSORS FINALLY ACHIEVE EQUALITY.

AND YET--
OLD ONE! WHAT ARE YOU--
OF ALL THE QUATRALS, ZEMATIN-LAR, I ALONE KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT TRULY A GODDESS... BUT YOU DO OFFER ESCAPE FROM THIS HELL OF ETERNAL FIGHTING...

...AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF THAT'S NOT SOMETHING WORTH FIGHTING FOR!

IT IS ONLY JUST THAT HERE IN THE ETERNAL WAR, HERE IN A PLACE OF NO POSSESSIONS SAVE LIFE ITSELF--

--OPPRESSED AND OPPRESSORS FINALLY ACHIEVE **EQUALITY.**

THE IRONY LIES IN THE **GOAL** OF THIS WAR, IN THE HIVE'S ONLY MATERIAL ITEM **WORTH POSSESSING...**

...AN IDOL WHICH HOLDS A PATHWAY TO THE **PAST**... A **RETURN** TO DOMINATION AND SUBMISSION.

AND YET--

OLD ONE! WHAT ARE YOU--

OF ALL THE QUATRALS, ZEMATIN-LAR, I ALONE KNOW THAT YOU ARE **NOT** TRULY A GODDESS... BUT YOU **DO** OFFER ESCAPE FROM THIS HELL OF **ETERNAL FIGHTING...**

...AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF THAT'S NOT SOMETHING **WORTH FIGHTING FOR!**

AT LEAST IT WAS EASY TO **CHOOSE SIDES** IN THIS FIGHT, JAKOSA LONE...

...BUT IT WOULD BE BEST TO FIND XEKROS' PISTOL **QUICKLY**--AND EMERGE ABOARD **VALIS' SHIP...**

YES--**FAR** BETTER THAN STEPPING OUT INTO THE ARMS OF OUR WOULD-BE JAILERS ON **HUB!**

THE **WEAPON** THEY SO DESPERATELY WANT...

I CAN **GIVE** IT TO THEM...

THE IRONY LIES IN THE GOAL OF THIS WAR; IN THE HIVE'S ONLY MATERIAL ITEM WORTH POSSESSING...
...AN IDOL WHICH HOLDS A PATHWAY TO THE PAST... A RETURN TO DOMINATION AND SUBMISSION.
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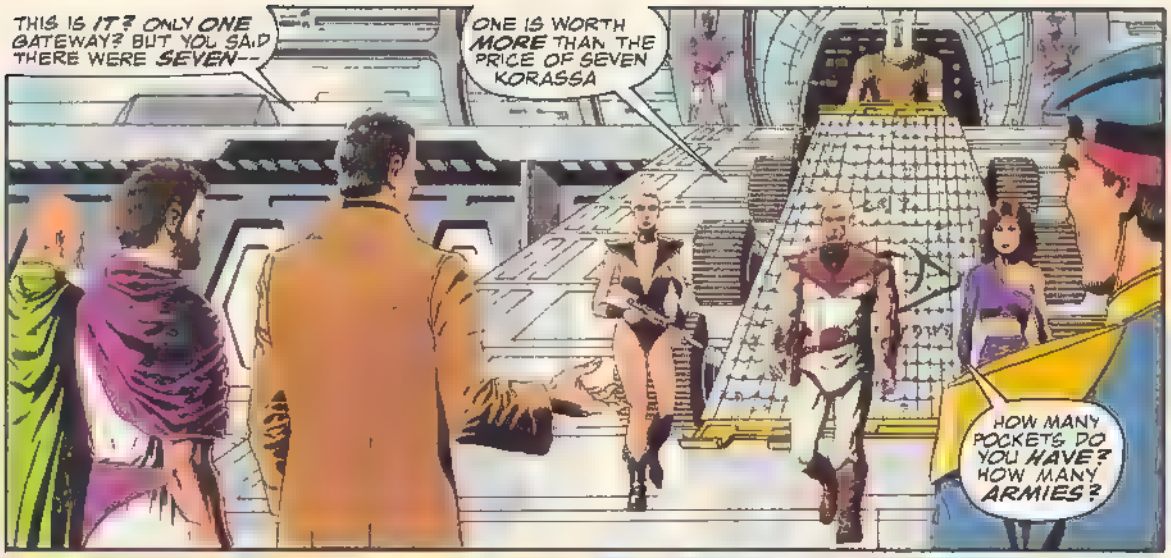
YES--FAR BETTER THAN STEPPING OUT INTO THE ARMS OF OUR WOULD-BE JAILERS ON HUB!
THE WEAPON THEY SO DESPERATELY WANT...
I CAN GIVE IT TO THEM...

NO!! NOT HIM!!
AND ZEMATIN MOVES WITHOUT THOUGHT--
--FORGETTING THAT SHE IS INCAPABLE OF SACRIFICE
AGH!!
"GHOST" OR NOT, ZEMATIN-LAR, YOUR PSYCHE CAN STILL BE ATOMIZED.
BESIDES, I NEVER DID LIKE--
-- SPEAR--
--SUGHH!
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. . A GHOST CAN HARDLY DIE N ANOTHER'S PLACE
. BUT PERHAPS MY GHOST . WILL NOW JOIN YOURS IN THE PLACE BEYOND. MY GODDESSSSS..
OLD ONE
ALL QUATRALS-- PULL BACK TO THIS SIDE OF THE IDOL!
THE TIDE'S ABOUT TO TURN--
--AND THE ETERNAL STALEMATE'S ABOUT TO END!

KRROOOM
MOVE!!
IT WON'T TAKE OUT ALL OF THEM!
STAY CLOSE TO THE IDOL!
DEFEND IT UNTIL THE LAST FEW ZAVISHA FALL OR FLEE!
HE'S BRINGING DOWN THE CEILING--ON THE ZAVISHA SIDE!


THIS IS IT? ONLY ONE GATEWAY? BUT YOU SAID THERE WERE SEVEN--
ONE IS WORTH MORE THAN THE PRICE OF SEVEN KORASSA
HOW MANY POCKETS DO YOU HAVE? HOW MANY ARMIES?

AND, WHILE ALL EYES ARE FIXED ON THE IDOL BELOW..
SORRY, TROOPER. BUT WE NEED AN EYE-OPENER--AND YOUR WEAPONS'LL HAVE TO SUFFICE.

BUT--
THE PRICE REMAINS THE SAME --TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.
AND TO FORESTALL ANY GREEDY IDEAS, IT'S WIRED TO BLOW-- TAKING THIS ENTIRE PORTION OF HUB WITH IT

OH HELL--ON TOP OF THE BLINDFOLD, NOW WE'VE GOTTA DEAL WITH A DETONATOR BEFORE JAKOSA MAKES HIS MOVE...

SURELY YOU CAN'T EXPECT US TO--
WHAT?!
SOMETHING TRYING TO COME OUT--?

YOU CALL IT, STARN--IS JAKOSA'S MOVE TOO LATE OR TOO EARLY?
AT THE MOMENT, SKREED...IT'S BOTH.

IT'S BLOCKED, LAMASQUE!
TROUBLE ON THE OTHER SIDE, THEN
KEEP TRYING, JAKOSA!
AH YES, KORASSA, I FORGOT TO MENTION...
THERE'LL BE AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE --BOUNTY CREDITS-- SINCE YOUR WANTED FUGITIVES ARE TRAPPED IN THERE.
NOT ALL OF THEM.
SKREED! STARN!
DO IT--NOW! BLAST THE BLINDFOLD!
IT'S ONLY A FALSE DETONATOR HE'S HOLDING!
THEN SHE DID KNOW WE WERE STOWAWAYS!
SURPRISE, SURPRISE--BUT IS SHE TELLING THE TRUTH NOW?
YOU TOO, CHELANDRIA...!
YOU WITCH!
IF SHE ISN'T, STARN, IT'S A DAMNED GOOD ACT THEY'RE STAGING--
--AND SHE JUST COMMITTED SUICIDE FOR ALL OF US!

THE RESISTANCE JUST GAVE WAY--JAKOSA'S GOING THROUGH!
ZEMMIE--TELL YOUR QUATRALS TO MAKE THE PASSAGE IN FIGHTING FORM!
CHOOM
HEY, STARN--I DOUBT THE HORSE EVER GAVE BIRTH TO THIS MANY WARRIORS, BUT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FEEL LIKE TROJANS OR GREEKS?
SOME OF THE ZAVISHA ARE STILL--
NEVER MIND, ZEMMIE--THE MORE THE MERRIER!
TROOPERS --NOW!
CUT DOWN EVERYONE WHO ISN'T A COLLATOR!
BUT DON'T DAMAGE THE GATEWAY!

THE RESISTANCE JUST GAVE WAY--JAKOSA'S GOING THROUGH!

ZEMMIE--TELL YOUR QUATRALS TO MAKE THE PASSAGE IN FIGHTING FORM!

KHOOM

SOME OF THE ZAVISHA ARE STILL--

NEVER MIND, ZEMMIE--THE MORE THE MERRIER!

TROOPERS --NOW!

CUT DOWN EVERYONE WHO ISN'T A COLLATOR!

BUT DON'T DAMAGE THE GATEWAY!

HEY, STARN--I DOUBT THE HORSE EVER GAVE BIRTH TO THIS MANY WARRIORS, BUT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FEEL LIKE TROJANS OR GREEKS?

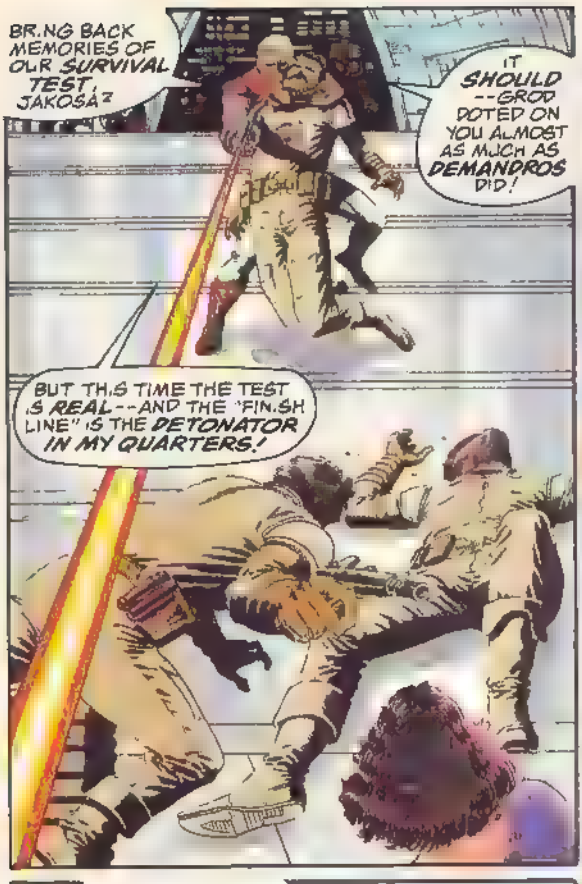
ONLY ONE THING I'M SURE OF, SKREED...

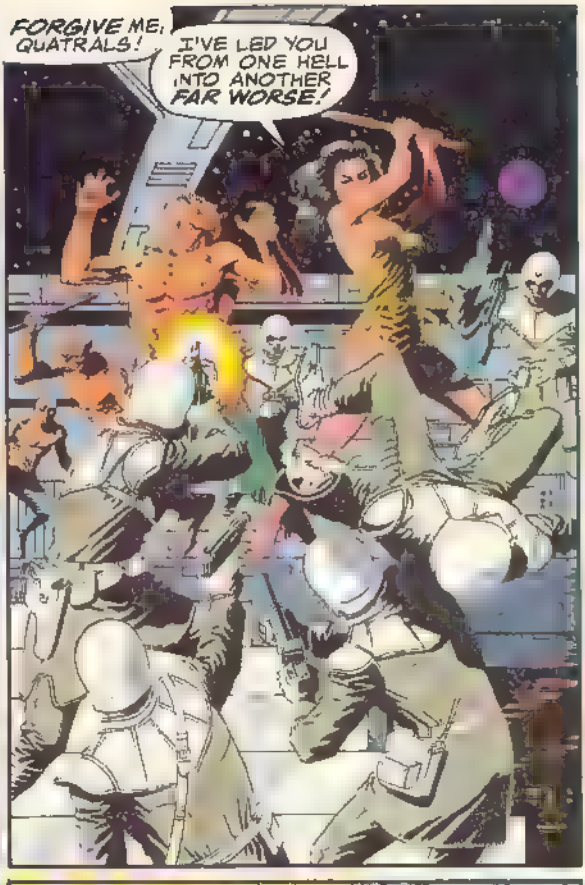
I DON'T FEEL LIKE A SIRIAN!

HUB! WE'RE ALREADY IN HUB!

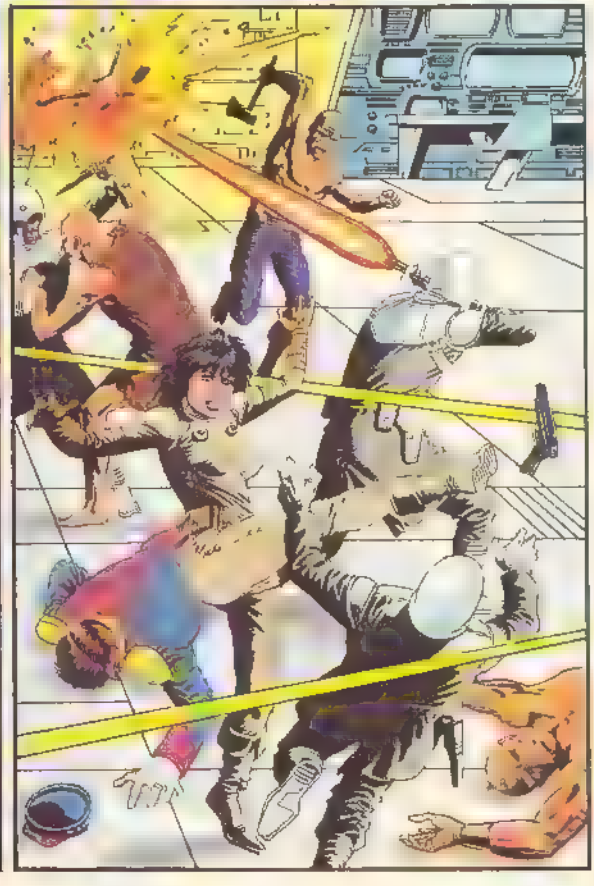
ONLY ONE THING I'M SURE OF, SKREED...
I DON'T FEEL LIKE A SIRIAN!
HUB! WE'RE ALREADY IN HUB!

STOP VALIS, JAKOSA!
THE REAL DETONATOR IS ABOARD SHIP!
AND LET'S SEE YOU WIN NOW, VALIS!
KRAK
FRAM
STARN!!
GHOOM


BRING BACK MEMORIES OF OUR SURVIVAL TEST, JAKOSA?
IT SHOULD --GROD DOTED ON YOU ALMOST AS MUCH AS DEMANDROS DID!
BUT THIS TIME THE TEST IS REAL--AND THE "FINISH LINE" IS THE DETONATOR IN MY QUARTERS!


FORGIVE ME, QUATRALS!
I'VE LED YOU FROM ONE HELL INTO ANOTHER FAR WORSE!

AND SO YOU SEE, JAKOSA...
IN THE END I WILL STILL WIN... AGAIN.



DAMN YOU, GROD!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE...

BUT HE DOES.

AAAIIIEEE

LOST HIM IN THE CORRIDORS.

SAFE TO GO FOR THE DETONATOR NOW...

NICE TRY, VALIS, BUT YOUR SHIP IS REGULATION DESIGN...

... AND A MAN LIKE YOU WOULD NEVER SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN THE LARGEST CABIN.

CHOOM
KZZHT
KWUMP
FRAK
BASH
THE INNER CABIN--HIS SLEEPING BERTH...

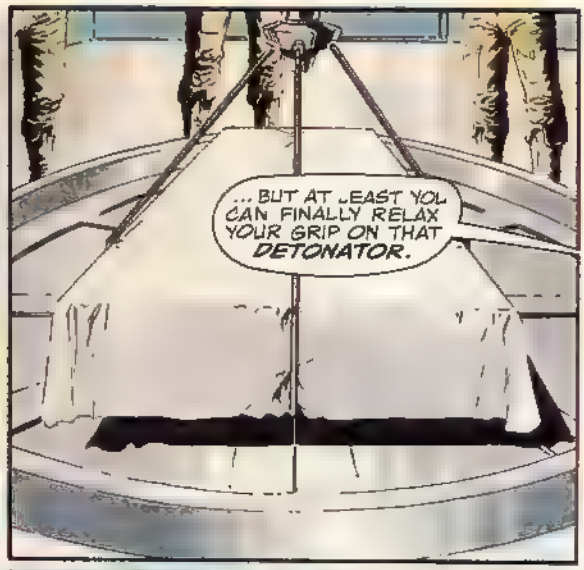
WHUMP
WHAK
SKREED! KORASSA'S GETTING AWAY!
NOT SO FAST, COLLATOR!
YOU'VE JUST BEEN DEMOTED TO PEACE NEGOTIATOR!

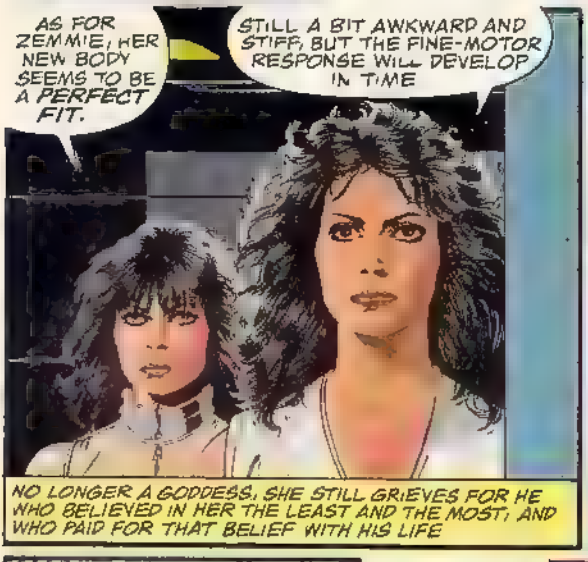
NOW TELL YOUR TROOPS TO STOP FIGHTING!
AND SPEAKING FOR ALL SIX OF US, BY THE WAY. WE RESIGN FROM SIRIAN SERVICE!
WHUP
KRAK
THUD
WHAP
B-TAM
FWAK

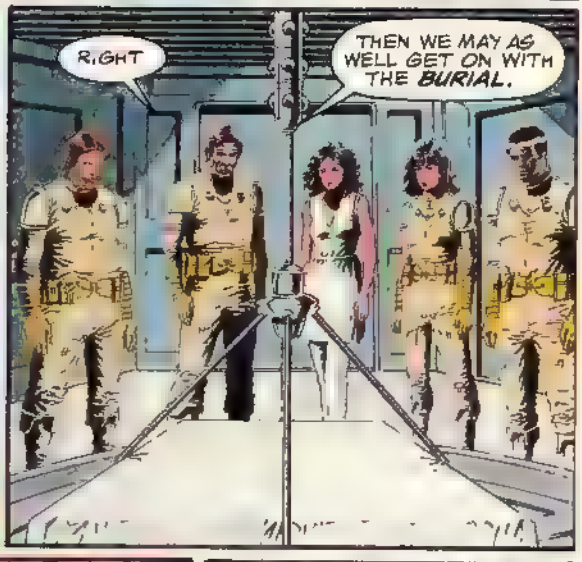
THAT'S RIGHT, FRIENDS--MAKE A NICE, NEAT PILE.
TROY JUST FELL-- THE FIGHT'S OVER.
AND JAKOSA LONE REACHES FOR HIS BOUNTY.
THIS IS THE REAL DETONATOR, KORASSA --AND THE BEST BARGAINING CHIP I'VE EVER HELD...
THE MOMENT GROD DIED MY DEMANDS WENT HIGHER THAN THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN...
AMEN.
BUT FIRST... WHAT ABOUT CHELANDRIA?
WHERE IS SHE?
I.. I DON'T KNOW WH-WHAT YOU--
NEVER MIND.
"I IMAGINE SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF... EVEN WITHIN A HELLHOLE LIKE SIRIUS HUB."

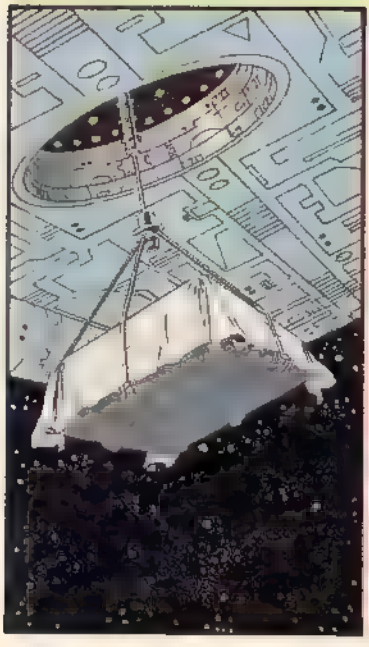
NOW, ABOUT MY DEMANDS..
FEEL FREE TO REFUSE THEM, KORASSA .. BUT IN THAT CASE, HOW WOULD YOU PREFER TO DIE?
SHOULD I SQUEEZE THE DETONATOR RIGHT NOW--?
"OR SHOULD THE GODDESS ZEMATIN-LAR SUMMON MORE OF HER HEAVENLY TROOPS, UNTIL HJB IS COMPLETELY OVERRUN?"
NEITHER, JAKOSA LONE I WON'T REFUSE YOUR DEMANDS.
SMART MAN. NO WONDER THEY MADE YOU A COLLATOR.
AND YOUR DEMOTION TO PEACE NEGOTIATOR IS MAKING YOU SMARTER BY THE MOMENT.
THIS IS "HEAVEN" GODDESS?
IT. ALL DEPENDS ON HOW YOU SEE IT, QUATRAL... AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS, MADE FREELY.
THEN... IF YOU SHOULD NEED US, GODDESS, YOU HAVE BUT TO CALL...
...BUT NOW THAT YOU HAVE VANQUISHED THE ZAVISHA FOR US... I THINK THE HIVE WILL BE A FAR BETTER PLACE TO LIVE OUT OUR DAYS.
YES... I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT...
..AND MAY YOU LIVE TO BE VERY OLD... AND VERY WISE...
CANCELLATION OF OUR FUGITIVE STATUS IS TOO ABSURD TO BROACH, KORASSA, SO THESE ARE MY DEMANDS. A SHIP-- TOP MODEL IN THE SIRIUS FLEET-- WITH THE GATEWAY ABOARD ... AS WELL AS TWO OTHER GIFTS OF GOOD WILL...
BUT-
THE FIRST IS A PERFECT FAX-WOMAN DUPE OF ZEMATIN-LAR'S FORMER BODY, AND THE SECOND IS...
B-BUT--

REACH NG CLEAR SPACE, JAKOSA -- BEYOND TRACKING REACH OF HLB'S WEAPONS.
ONLY WAY THEY CAN TOUCH US NOW IS BY SENDING ANOTHER SHIP, WHICH THEY LL NO DOUBT DO...

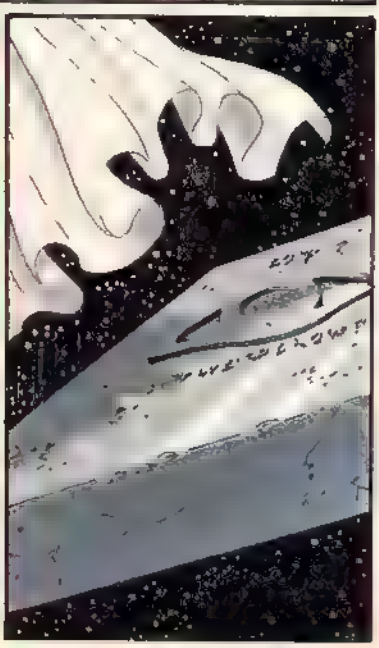

...BUT AT LEAST YOU CAN FINALLY RELAX YOUR GRIP ON THAT DETONATOR.


AS FOR ZEMMIE, HER NEW BODY SEEMS TO BE A PERFECT FIT.
STILL A BIT AWKWARD AND STIFF, BUT THE FINE-MOTOR RESPONSE WILL DEVELOP IN TIME
NO LONGER A GODDESS, SHE STILL GRIEVES FOR HE WHO BELIEVED IN HER THE LEAST AND THE MOST; AND WHO PAID FOR THAT BELIEF WITH HIS LIFE


RIGHT
THEN WE MAY AS WELL GET ON WITH THE BURIAL.

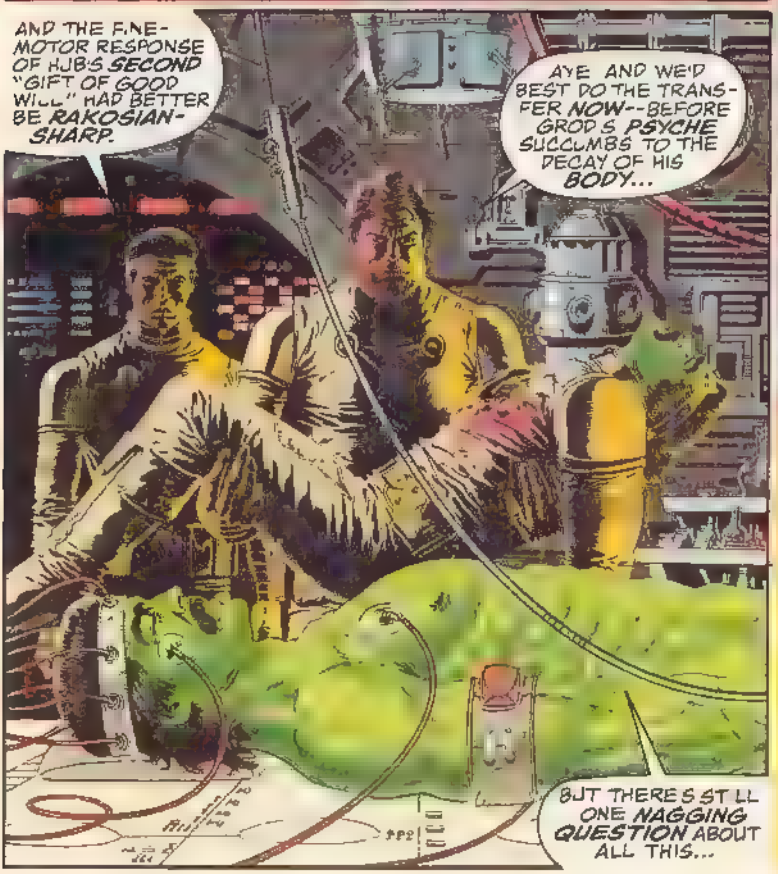


WH-WHERE...?
WHO--?



YOU LOSE, VAY-LISS.

IF THE QUATRALS - OR VALIS-- EVER LEAVE THE HIVE AND EMERGE FROM THE GATEWAY...
"... I WONDER WHERE THEY'LL FIND THEMSELVES?"


AND THE FINE-MOTOR RESPONSE OF HJB'S SECOND "GIFT OF GOOD WILL" HAD BETTER BE RAKOSIAN-SHARP.
AYE AND WE'D BEST DO THE TRANSFER NOW--BEFORE GROD'S PSYCHE SUCCUMBS TO THE DECAY OF HIS BODY...
BJT THERE'S ST LL ONE NAGGING QUESTION ABOUT ALL THIS...

BY 2025, I TELL YOU, THE CITIES JUST **EXPLODED** IN SIZE. POPULATIONS INTO THE B'ZILLIONS. BUILDINGS WENT UP ON TOP OF BUILDINGS. ON TOP OF **MORE** BUILDINGS. GOT SO YOU'D HAVE TO HIT THE 95TH LEVEL TO EVEN GLIMPSE A SUNSET, PROVIDED YOU COULD LUCK INTO A CLEAR ENOUGH DAY OR FIGHT THROUGH THE MOBS TO GET A PEEK.

AND **WATER**, MAN. WATER WAS LIKE **GOLD**. USED TO BE CITIES SUCKED UP SO MUCH THE GOVERNMENT **IMPOUNDED** IT AND SOLD IT TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. **SAUDI ARABIA** WON OUT. WE WERE LEFT WITH OCEAN-PIPELINED STUFF THAT WAS ONLY **PARTIALLY** DISTILLED. ANYONE WHO COULDN'T AFFORD BETTER -- YOUR BASIC MASSES -- **DRANK** IT. THEY DROPPED LIKE FLIES. CITY STREETS WERE POWDERY WHITE WITH SILT AND SEA SALT. THE WINTER SNOWS **NEVER** STUCK.

METRO

CONCLUSION

by MIKE SAENZ & MIKE VOSBERG w/ [illegible] by LES DORSCHEID

ME...? I'M RED KING. ONE MORE GUTTER-RUNNER HOPIN TO SURVIVE. AN' THAT AIN'T WORSE.

THERE WAS NO MORE PUBLIC DOLE. YOU HAD TO WORK OR STEAL TO STAY ALIVE. AND IF YOU WERE BRED AND BAPTIZED IN THE STREETS LIKE ME, THERE WEREN'T MANY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. I FINALLY OPTED FOR **ENFORCEMENT**. HAD TO STEAL TO PAY FOR MY TRAINING. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS, I GOT IT. ONE STEP UP. OUT OF THE MASSES. NOT A BIG BREAK, BUT BETTER THAN **MOST** WERE GETTING IN THIS WORLD.

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...

. AS AN OFFICER, METRO POLICE THE OL' COPS AND ROBBERS GIG. JUST LIKE THE CLASSIC VIDEOS ONLY T HAD GOTTEN A WHOLE LOT NASTIER OVER THE YEARS. A WHOLE LOT SCARIER. IT WAS **WAR** ON THE STREETS SURE, IT WAS ONE STEP UP, BUT THERE WERE SOME CRAZY MOTHERS OUT THERE ALWAYS READY TO TAKE YOU DOWN

SHE WAS KAY BALIMAN A NUN WITH THE STREET SMARTS TO CARRY MORE THAN A ROSARY SHE TOOK ME TO THE LOCAL CONVENT, BANDAGED MY WOUNDS, TALKED

I STORMED OUT ANGRILY, LEAVING HER ALONE.

OR SO WE BOTH THOUGHT. A PART OF KAY'S PAST HAD CAUGHT UP WITH HER

...A PART WILLING TO KILL SLOWLY, HORRIBLY TO TRACK HER DOWN

GET DRESSED. WE'VE A CEREMONY TO ATTEND

DINER

DAMN T

DRUGS

SPECIAL BREAKFAST $3.00

SHE NEEDED YOU THAT WAS OBVIOUS WHY COULDN'T YOU GO SLOW? LET HER GET TO THE POINT--

-- IN HER OWN TIME, HER OWN WAY SHE'S A NUN, FOR CHRISSAKE, KING WHY'D YOU EXPLODE AND--

TAXI

TAXI

TAXI

SHIT! SOMETHIN'S GOIN' DOWN AND I'M SURE AS HELL GONNA FIND OUT WHAT!

SEX

WOW

I FOLLOWED. AT A SAFE DISTANCE.
CALLING FOR BACKUP WAS OUT. NOT THESE DAYS. NOT FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN A MAJOR EMERGENCY.
OFFICE BUILDING. TOP FLOOR RESIDENTIAL. GOTTA BE.
MP
BEAUTIFUL. AS THOUGH YOU'D BEEN GIFT-WRAPPED, MY BELOVED.
Y-YOU MONSTER...!
YES. I SUPPOSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I AM.
ANUBIS 24-84345 OF THE FOREVER SERIES, DESIGNED WITHOUT SEMBLANCE OF HUMAN WEAKNESS. WITHOUT CONSCIENCE. WITHOUT FEAR. AS YOUR FRIEND, RANDOLPH, DISCOVERED IN THAT VERY CHAIR.
YOU'RE EVIL! CORRUPT! A MURDERER!
AND YOU ARE GOOD AND PURE AND ABOUT TO DIE. DECLARE YOUR INNOCENCE BEFORE THE GODS.
I'VE TAPPED INTO YOUR NEUROSYSTEM, ALLOWING ME TO DISPENSE BOTH MAXIMUM PAIN AND PLEASURE--
"BY DIALING THIS SWITCH BACK AND FORTH, FROM ONE END OF THE SPECTRUM TO THE OTHER, EVERY NERVE WILL SOON BE--
"--OVERTAXED!"
I USED MY POLICE ISSUE OVERRIDE CARD KEY. EXCEPT...
DEMAGNITIZED AGAIN! STUPID GODDAM PLASTIC SECURITY BULLSHIT!
BLASSH!!
1 2 3 4 8 9 10 11
DING!
EEE
EEE

BOY
KAY!
WHAM!
HE MOVED FIRST. AND FAST...
WAK!
METRO POLICE
...MUCH FASTER THAN I COULD RAISE MY GUN AND FIRE. AND HE MOVED HARD. THE IMPACT RIPPED THE WEAPON FROM MY HAND.
THEN, HE REALLY WENT TO WORK. ONE GUY. BUT DOING MUCH BETTER AT KILLING ME THAN ALL THREE OF THOSE PUNKS EARLIER.
THUD!
SMAK!
METRO POLICE
...UNLESS HE MADE A MISTAKE.
YOU DO ATTRACT PROTECTORS, MY BELOVED.
FIRST, RANDOLPH. NOW... THIS! YET YOU COULD HAVE HAD ME! ME!
I WAS GONNA BE POUNDED INTO TOMORROW'S STREET SILT...

HE MADE TWO. HE TELEGRAPHED THE BLOW ENOUGH THAT I WAS ABLE TO ROLL WITH IT INSTEAD OF HAVING MY HEAD TORN OFF..
... AND HE LET HIS FOLLOW-THROUGH GIVE ME A CHANCE AT HIS BACK!
NOW--
THUNK!
--YOU'VE--
WHAM!
--HAD IT!
=FZZT= I AM =POOF= I AM HE =ZZT= WHO COMETH FORTH ADVANZING
W-WHAT... WHAT THE HELL IS HE, KAY?
AN ARTIFICIAL BEING. AN INHUMAN KILLER. I WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS NEXT--
YOU'RE SAFE NOW. BUT THAT STUFF HE'S SPOUTING--
IMPLANTED IDENTITY--
--THE DELUSION OF BEING ANUBIS, THE EGYPTIAN GOD, PROTECTOR OF THE DEAD. A JUSTIFICATION FOR HIS EVIL/MISGUIDED PROGRAMMING. THERE ARE OTHERS, RED, IF PEOPLE AREN'T WARNED--
=PLK= SEER OF-- OF-- OF-- =ZZZT= MILLUNZ UV YEARZ =VRT= ANNUBZZZZZ...
I'M A COP, KAY. EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE--
B-BE...
...

METRO POLICE
STAND BACK FROM HER, MAN. YOU'RE WAY OFF YOUR BEAT.
ALARM DIDN'T HELP ANUBIS, BUT AT LEAST IT BROUGHT US IN TIME TO GET THE GIRL BACK.
YEAH. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EAGER-BEAVER HERE.
LOSS
B-BUT--
SHUT UP.
I WAS TAKEN TO THIS PLACE 'CAUSE I KNEW TOO MUCH. SEE, THE GOVERNMENT'S GOT THIS PROJECT... THEY REPLACE A MAN'S BRAIN IF HE'S WHAT YOU CALL CRIMINALLY INSANE...
BUT THEN THEY KINDA LET IT EXPAND... TO THE 'UNDESIREABLE' OR 'MALADJUSTED'. IT WAS CHEAPER, MORE EFFECTIVE THAN OLD FASHIONED REHABILITATION.
MAKE 'EM INTO 'PRODUCTIVE' MEMBERS OF SOCIETY... LIKE KAY. A HOOKER BEFORE THEY GOT HOLD OF HER. ONLY THEY DID TOO GOOD A JOB. LEFT HER WITH A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY...
MADE HER SEE THE DANGER OF THEIR BIGGEST STEP... THE FOREVER SERIES.
IT WAS FOR SALE TO ANY BIDDER, LIKE OUR WATER TO THE SAUDIS. SHE REBELLED AGAINST BEING ITS MATE AND TRIED TO WARN US ALL.
THEY TELL ME SHE'S 'BETTER' NOW. 'CURED'. AN' ME...? I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE THEY'LL REPLACE MY BRAIN TOO. GIVES ME THE CREEPS REAL BAD WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT. I TRY TO THINK ABOUT KAY INSTEAD. SOMETIMES IT HELPS.
SOMETIMES.